

Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

June 2002

Inspection and Evaluation Committee Members

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NSF

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State

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Justice

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VA

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Labor

GEORGE OPFER
FEMA

JANET REHNQUIST
HHS

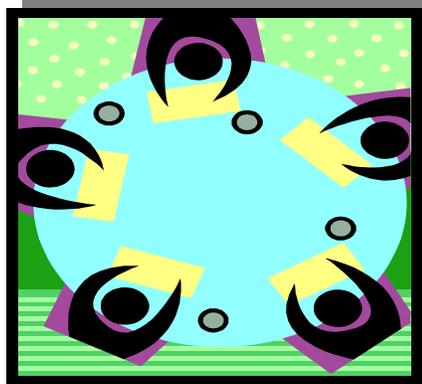
STEPHEN SMITH
FCA

I&E Committee Meetings will be held quarterly and will usually rotate among IG members. Richard Griffin (VA) will host the next meeting. Date to be announced.



Next I&E Roundtable Meeting:
June 27, 2002, 9:30 a.m.
Department of the Interior

I&E ROUNDTABLE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 25, 2002



Richard Griffin, Inspector General for Veterans Affairs, welcomed the Inspections and Evaluation Roundtable at its April meeting held at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Griffin gave an overview of IG operations at VA, highlighting recent inspections at the many VA hospitals and clinics located throughout the United States. The IG described his proactive inspection program, which involves investigators, auditors, and inspectors working well together. In addition, he was pleased to provide information about the growth of his inspection unit. In 1997, the unit had 20 FTE's in headquarters. Today the VA OIG has 47 inspectors, some located in each of its six regions.

COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Project Updates

At the April Meeting, I&E Roundtable chair George Grob asked the Roundtable members to report on the progress of ongoing Roundtable and Committee projects.

Travel Cards Oversight. The I&E Roundtable is preparing a "best practices" report to aid IG oversight of the federal travel card program. The report is currently being drafted by the Labor OIG under Gordon Heddell's leadership. Labor OIG issued a report on use of travel cards in the Labor Department on March 26. The wrap-up "best practices" report will also include work performed by the Justice, Education, Commerce, and the Social Security Administration OIGs. Input from other OIGs doing travel card reviews is welcome. To share work done by other OIGs in this area, please contact Beth McNeill at 202-693-5217 or by e-mail to mcneill@oig.dol.gov.

Child Support Enforcement. This project has involved the work of two IGs to date. The I&E Committee examined reports on compliance with child support laws among employees at the FBI and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). George Grob stated that a report recently issued by the Department of Justice OIG found that FBI employees were in compliance with child support payments. The HHS OIG also recently issued a report on this subject. It found that among its employees, 70 were delinquent in

child support payments. Grob reported that the HHS Secretary wants to showcase the federal government as a model employer regarding child support and help ensure that all federal employees are in compliance with child support payment requirements. IGs other than HHS, however, due to privacy rules, may find it difficult to perform reviews in this area. HHS may work directly with the HRM units of other federal agencies to expand this program to help ensure that federal employees are not delinquent in child support payments.

Training. Roundtable representatives from Commerce, Education, and Justice sent staff members to a training class called Write to the Point sponsored by HHS OIG. As in the past when HHS offered training opportunities, the response was overwhelming; the three available openings went quickly to the first to respond.

The IG Auditor Training Institute (IGATI) also offers writing and other classes for inspectors and evaluators as well as auditors and others in the IG community. Several I&E staff members attended a February writing class at IGATI. Another IGATI class will be held June 10-11, 2002. Visit the Institute's site, <http://www.igati.org/contact.html>, to find out class schedules. In addition, it was announced that Danny Athanasaw has accepted the position as the new director of IGATI.



Other News

AEA Conference. The American Evaluation Association's (AEA) annual conference will be held in Washington, D.C., in November 2002. For registration information, please visit the AEA web site, <http://www.eval.org>. The conference will offer a discussion of IG inspections and evaluations. Johnnie Frazier and George Grob are tentatively planning to make presentations.

Special Project



PCIE Purchase Card Guide *A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR REVIEWING GOVERNMENT PURCHASE CARD PROGRAMS*

The final draft of this guide will go to the printer this week. Printed copies should be available for distribution to the PCIE community in 2 weeks. A copy will also be available on CD-Rom and at the IGnet web site, <http://www.ignet.gov/igs/homepage.html>.

Much effort has gone into making this document a useful tool for all PCIE members as well as others. Special thanks go to the Education OIG, which prepared the initial version of the guide.

Others in the IG community have provided lists of purchase card reviews available for use as resources to draw from. The guide will contain a multi-agency resource list of OIG reviews. This will provide examples of how different agencies conduct and present their reviews of the purchase card program. Copies of specific reports can be obtained from the appropriate OIG or from their web site. The resource list of purchase card reviews now includes reviews from the OIGs at Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, GSA, Interior, State, Transportation, and VA, and the GAO.

The purchase card guide will prove to be a valuable tool that enables IGs to more effectively target their efforts for preventing as well as detecting waste, fraud, and abuse by government purchase cardholders. It also serves as yet another example of the commitment of the inspectors general to work collectively to promote efficiency and effectiveness throughout the federal government.

Congressional and Media Attention. Congressional and media scrutiny of the government's purchase card program has tended to focus on past abuses of the program. On May 1, 2002, IGs Johnnie Frazier, Janet Rehnquist, and Gregory H. Friedman testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Energy and Commerce, on their oversight of the purchase card programs in Commerce, HHS, and Energy.

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